

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
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August 22, 1983

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 83-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FULL-TIME COLLEGE ATTENDANCE; REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA) MANDATORY
REFERRALS; REMOTENESS

REFERENCE: ACL 83-32, ACL 83-27, MPP Section 69-208.63

This letter is being issued to clarify policy in the following areas of the Refugee Resettlement Program and Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program.

Full-Time College Attendance

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has recently issued policy which clarifies previous federal policy on a refugee's/entrant's receipt of Refugee Cash Assistance/Entrant Cash Assistance (RCA/ECA) while attending an institution of higher learning on a full-time basis.

Effective immediately the following shall be considered when determining RCA/ECA eligibility based on full-time college attendance as defined by the institution:

1. RCA/ECA applicants/recipients who are full-time students in a college program at an institution of higher learning, are ineligible to receive RCA/ECA.
2. RCA/ECA applicants/recipients who are enrolled and participating in DSS-funded training programs offered at an institution of higher learning on a full-time basis as part of an employability plan developed by the Central Intake Unit (CIU), when such training is intended to have a definite short-term (less than one year) employment objective, shall not be denied or discontinued from RCA/ECA.
3. RCA/ECA applicants/recipients who are enrolled and participating in DSS-funded training programs offered at an institution of higher learning on less than a full-time basis as part of an employability plan developed by the CIU, when such training is intended to have a definite short-term (less than one year) employment objective, shall not be denied or discontinued from RCA/ECA when attendance in classes in a college program offered at the institution result in full-time attendance.

The above instructions supersede the instructions contained in Section IX of ACL 83-32, except that the definition of an "institution of higher learning" is further defined to include technical and vocational schools or institutions. Therefore, attendance in technical/vocational schools shall be considered, as indicated in Items 1-3 above, when determining eligibility based on full-time college attendance.

NOTE: The above policy does not affect persons 18 years of age who are full-time students in a secondary school or in equivalent level of vocational/technical training as defined by the age chapter of the AFDC regulations if the person is expected to complete secondary school or the equivalent training program prior to his/her nineteenth birthday.

RCA Mandatory Referrals

Counties were instructed in ACL 83-27 to refer only the principal wage earner in a husband/wife Family Budget Unit (FBU) to the CIU on a mandatory basis. However, effective with the date of this letter and in accordance with MPP Sections 69-208.21 and 69-208.4, both spouses in a husband/wife FBU where there are no children shall be referred to the CIU on a mandatory basis unless otherwise exempt.

Remoteness

The Office of Refugee Services (ORS) has received a number of inquiries regarding the application of MPP Section 69-208.63o when determining good cause for failure or refusal to meet or comply with the registration/employment/training requirements contained in MPP Section 69-208. It should be noted that remoteness, as described in Section 69-208.63o is determined by whether or not the commuting time to the registration/employment/training site and return would exceed two hours. However, if the commuting standard of the community in which the refugee resides is more than two hours, that standard must be used to determine remoteness. Additionally, Section 69-208.63 lists those circumstances where good cause may exist when a refugee fails/refuses to comply with the registration/employment/training requirements of the RCA/ECA Program and should not be construed as exemptions from such requirements.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact your Office of Refugee Services, CWD Operations Consultant at (916) 322-3141 or (415) 557-8588, as appropriate.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. QATSHA
Chief Deputy Director

cc: CWDA
ORR-SF